

*Original letter
rewritten*

DRAFT

Mr. Henry A. Byroade
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington

Dear Mr. Byroade:

I appreciate Mr. Acheson's thoughtfulness in having passed to me a copy of Ambassador Bowles' letter dated 28 October 1952. The observations and judgments in such a letter are always of interest and of value to us in the intelligence community.

I note that the Ambassador's letter was probably written before he would have had an opportunity to review SE-32, "Consequences of Communist Control over South Asia", a national intelligence estimate published on 3 October. This estimate was by its terms of reference somewhat unrealistic as far as what the situation would be outside of India if India were to be communist. Nevertheless, the conclusions, while somewhat less alarming, are in general agreement with those which the Ambassador presents on the seriousness of a Communist seizure of power in India.

We have no recent national intelligence estimate on probable political and economic developments in India. The views expressed in NIE-23, "India's Position in the East-West Conflict", published 4 September 1951, are less alarming than those of Ambassador Bowles. But perhaps our new estimate of the Indian situation, scheduled for late February, will require modification of our previous views.

If the present schedule does not meet any requirements you may have for the collective views of the intelligence community, I know we can count on Park Armstrong to pass us the word.

Walter B. Smith
Director

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cc: Park Armstrong *Jr.*
Special Asst. Intelligence
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